

Message Text

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ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 NSA-01 AGR-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01

SS-15 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 /104 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 472

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GSP, NO

SUBJ: NORWEGIAN GENERAL SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES (GSP) SCHEME

REF: (A) STATE 222799; (B) STATE 223124

1. E/C OFFICER REVIEWED NORWEGIAN GSP SCHEME WITH OLAV SOLLI, DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN TRADE DEPARTMENT, AND MAREN HERTZBERG ERICHSEN, SECTION CHIEF FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION OF THE NORWEGIAN DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

2. NORWAY INTRODUCED ITS GSP SCHEME FOR THE LDC'S IN OCTOBER 1971 AND EXTENDED ITS COVERAGE TO MORE LDC'S, DEPENDENT OR ADMINISTERED COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES AND ADDITIONAL PRODUCTS IN JUNE 1973. SINCE 1974, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE OECD, WORK HAS BEEN PROGRESSING ON HARMONIZING AND SIMPLIFYING THE ORIGIN RULES OF THE DONOR COUNTRIES' SYSTEMS. A COMPLETE, CONSOLIDATED NORWEGIAN SYSTEM BECAME OPERATIVE ON JULY 1, 1975.

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EXEMPTION FROM DUTY IS GRANTED TO PRODUCTS FROM

THE LDC'S WHICH ARE COVERED BY GSP AND WHICH MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR PREFERENTIAL TARIFF TREATMENT. THE PREFERENTIAL TARIFF TREATMENT APPLIES TO PRODUCTS REGISTERED IN THE NORWEGIAN CUSTOMS TARIFF, BASED ON THE BRUSSELS NOMENCLATURE FOR THE CLASSIFICATION OF GOODS IN CUSTOMS TARIFFS(CHAPTER 1-99).

3. ERICHSEN EMPHASIZED THAT NORWAY PLACES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO U.S. JOINING GSP SCHEME. SHE COMMENTED THAT NORWEGIAN EXTENSIVE GSP COVERAGE HAS BEEN VERY FAVORABLY RECEIVED BY THE LDC'S. THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO PROPOSED THAT THE 25 LATEST DEVELOPED LDC'S BE GRANTED COMPLETE DUTY FREE STATUS. ERICHSEN ALSO STATED THAT BURDEN SHARING WOULD AGAIN BE DISCUSSED WITHIN THE OECD AT THE NEXT MEETING.

4. THOSE PRODUCTS WHICH ARE COVERED BY PREFERENCE SYSTEM AND WHICH ARE, IN GENERAL, DUTY-FREE IN THE NORWEGIAN CUSTOMS TARIFF REQUIRE NO SPECIAL DOCUMENTATION OF ORIGIN ON IMPORTATION FROM LDC'S. THESE CONDITIONS ARE LIKEWISE APPLICABLE WHEN RATES OF DUTY ARE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED. PRODUCTS IMPORTED INTO NORWAY FROM LDC'S ARE GRANTED TARIFF PREFERENCES ONLY IF THEY SATISFY THE RULES OF ORIGIN GIVEN IN THE REGULATION IN FORCE. THE IMPORTED GOODS MUST BE COMPLETELY PRODUCED WITHIN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRY OR HAVE UNDERGONE A SUBSTANTIAL TRANSFORMATION SUFFICIENT TO QUALIFY IT AS ORIGINATING IN THAT COUNTRY TO QUALIFY UNDER THE GSP.

5. SPECIFIC INFORMATION REQUESTED REFTEL A:
A. TRADE COVERAGE OF GSP SCHEME: 102 MILLION KRONER; 0.2 PERCENT OF TOTAL TRADE (46,556 MILLION KRONER); 2 PERCENT OF LDC TRADE (5,127 MILLION KRONER)-1974 FIGURES.

B. DEPTH OF TARIFF: (1) NO VARIATION FROM DUTY FREE TREATMENT; (2) N/A.

C. ESCAPE CLAUSE: NORMAL ESCAPE CLAUSE PROVISIONS.

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D. PRODUCT COVERAGE: VERY LITTLE UNCOVERED (96 PERCENT COVERED IN 1973; 93 PERCENT BTN 1-24, 97 PERCENT BTN 25-99).

E. AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS PRODUCED IN NORWAY SUCH AS MEATS, VEGETABLES AND DAIRY PRODUCTS ARE NOT EXEMPT FROM DUTY. PRODUCTS NOT PRODUCED IN NORWAY SUCH AS TROPICAL FRUITS, VEGETABLES, AND

JUICES ARE COVERED UNDER GSP (BTN 1-24).

6. BACKUP INFORMATION REQUESTED IN REF TEL B:

A. PRODUCT COVERAGE: CORRECT AS STATED. BTN ITEMS
84.06-87.05 RECENTLY ADDED BECAUSE THERE ARE
FISCAL DUTIES ON THESE PRODUCTS.

B. DEPTH OF TARIFF CUTS: 100 PERCENT.

C. SAFEGUARD MECHANISM: ESCAPE CLAUSE PRO-
VISIONS TO WITHDRAW PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT
TO "PREVENT OR COUNTERACT MARKET DISRUPTION"
(STORTING PREPOSITION 122).

D. LIMITATION ON ELIGIBLE PRODUCTS: NONE.

E. BENEFICIARIES: ALL MEMBERS OF THE GROUP OF
77 AND DEPENDENT LESS DEVELOPED TERRITORIES OF
MORE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (ONLY ABOUT 44 COUNTRIES
AND PAPUA HAVE COMPLIED WITH DOCUMENTATION RE-
QUIREMENTS AS OF EARLY 1975.)

7. EMBASSY IS FORWARDING "NORWAY: GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF
PREFERENCES FOR IMPORT OF GOODS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES"
TO DEPARTMENT.

8. COMMENT: THERE IS WIDESPREAD AGREEMENT IN NOR-
WEGIAN FOREIGN AND COMMERCE DEPARTMENTS SUPPORTING IMPL-
EMENTATION OF U.S. GSP SYSTEM AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE.
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